

BEGONE, DULL CARE.

Recovery of Tone Apparent in Artistic
as Well as Material Affairs.

SAXON AND GALLIC AUDIENCES.
Madame Bernhardt's Estimate of
SIGNOR DUSE-The Dramatization
of Trilby and Hypnotic Sugges-
tion-No Attractions This Week.

Until lately there appeared to be a general determination to groan and grumble all the time. Financial hard times, literary pessimism, didactic drama, and the growing tyranny of the political "rank" seemed conspiring to invent the hack-phrase, fin de siècle, with us a period of doleful dumps, from which we could only hope to be aroused, if at all, by the dawn of a new era. Happily, it has not proved necessary to wait so long for the reaction. Already, with five years still in hand, there are on all sides distinct signs of a recovery of tone and of a restored buoyancy, which give good promise that we may yet laugh the cares out after all. Such a laying of bases and dispersal of nightmares as has been recently in progress ought to impress even those who have been most susceptible to the depressing influences of the past two or three years. Barely, indeed, can there have been so many disconcerting elements of cheerfulness, so many instances of optimism, at work at the same time. If there were nothing to recommend beyond the tokens of reviving prosperity, which have been so unmistakable of late, it would be well enough; but the other signs of monetary tightness and evidence of retrenchment have been among the most prevalent symptoms of the era of depression, now passing away. With the promise of a new series of trials and with the friends of our country in the helm, to help even the dullest of industries towards better times, there is surely no lack of encouragement in the material outlook. But, however this may be, there is not a little to suggest in various other directions that the present gloom is, for the moment, at least, far off. For one thing, the dismal neoprene novel, with its tale of unpleasantry, and its continually erupting spirit of revolt, is becoming less popular.

Those that are recovering their spirits, people are beginning to wonder how they ever have been beguiled into taking all this morbid rubbish into account. As some of them have striven to dissuade us, however, of its most malignant equipments with an exasperating complaisance, but with returning cheerfulness, there comes a welcome revival of the sense of humor, and the fictional powers, who "did" and "didn't," and "would" and "wouldn't," are at last, once more launched out of court. At the theatres a similar recovery is apparent. It is a long time since there was an exuberant "ring-a-ring-o'-roses" such a clean lot of dramatic beauty as is presented, now that the autumn theatrical season is well along.

The women "with a past" have ceased to walk their wiles across the footlights. It would have been too much to invite playgoers, fresh from the enjoyment of a summer so well attuned to our restored healthiness, to yawn over sex-problems, and sit under pragmatical playwrights with a purpose. . . .

The point of view is certainly everything. In a late issue of the Contemperary Review, in the wayward course of a discursive article, most appropriately called, "Talent and Genius On the Stage," Mr. George Barlow, whose didactic tone strongly resembles that of the other Mr. Barlow, the reverend instructor of Sandford and Merton, makes complaint of the behaviour of Saxon and French actors. "Nothing is more unattractive," he says, "than what is most attractive," he says, "nothing is more controlled and self-satisfied" than the progress during the process of maturing. And again, "The ordinary spectator never gets far enough away from himself and his neighbors to become thoroughly absorbed in the play, thoroughly lost in it, as though he himself were on the stage, watching a real scene, and failing thus state of passionate absorption which foreigners pass into with such difficulty." "It naturally is not particularly annoyed when the young lady behind him calls loudly upon him to 'look at me,' etc." Sarah Bernhardt's eyes, that is to say.

We tried to plain suffice. Mr. Barlow is right in his opinion when stated at the play a tendency to make and endure attractions within the Gaul and Ibadan, and within India and in submit to. That is definite, and, of my humility, I was prepared to accept this as settled, when I read on the New Review, with an article by M. Favre, brilliant actor, and vice-president of the Comédie Française, that "Actions and Audiences," and here I chance upon another opinion on this same point. M. Favre had the good fortune to see several plays a little comedy. The first was "Ours," obviously "Ours," though M. Favre refers to this play as "another comedy" in the very next paragraph was sold in a park on a gloomy autumn day. The rain and the wind were beating down the yellow leaves from the trees and in the midst of this scene, very gaudily and very simply, two lovers were squatting under an umbrella and saying a thousand pretty things to each other. It was a delicious piece of acting, and the public applauded it to the hilt, but this would be hardly acceptable, perhaps, of the Theatre Libre. But in an audience one would hear laughter and whoops, and somebody would say, "What an absurd idea! Fancy making love under an umbrella!" and a thousand other withings.

Where lies the truth then? Is the Saxon player superior to the Gaul, as M. Favre asserts, because he has been in the theatre whereas the Frenchman "internal chucks," spoil the scenes he might have been "less good"? Or is Mr. Barlow right in asserting that the "audience comments" of the English and American world would condemn the Gaul or Italian, in whom, however, contrary to M. Favre's expression, such interruptions would be impossible? Though one cannot reconcile these estimates of native and foreign audiences, one can endorse, and heartily, some few of the judgments of the qualified writers. "Felicity" leaves the stage only two days before the player took his place in society. Mr. Barlow regrets the decay of eloquence, and the growth of undesirable manners and aims. We are all at one here, I think. . . .

H. C. D.

SHERIFF CARDOZA GONE HOME.

He Did Not Take Sergeant Epps with Him—To Get Further Orders.

Sheriff M. C. Cardoza left the city yesterday without his prisoners, and without City-Sergeant Epps.

It is understood that he goes to Laramie to report to Judge Orgain, and get further orders as to Sergeant Epps. He gave no intimation of when he purposed returning.

Judge Mann and Mr. Southall have also returned home, but will return here next week, to be present on Thursday, when the Supreme Court is expected to hand down a decision on the petition for a mandamus.

H. C. D.

Foot-Ball.

University of Virginia vs. University of North Carolina. Thanksgiving-Day.

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SCHOOL OF ATHENS.

GAME AND POULTRY.

BECOMING A DECIDED INDUSTRY

IN HIGHLAND COUNTY.

Thousands of Dollars Realized—Im-

ense Drove of the Thanksgiving Birds—To Locate in Nelson.

PERSONALS and BRIEFS.

MONTEREY, VA., November 16.—(Special)—The opening of the game- and poultry-season in Highland is a time when Monterey assumes an appearance after the manner of a large city, and those who deserve it cannot be accorded too much credit for the opening up of a market for these articles.

Theatre-goers are to have a breathing spell this week. The failure of Lindsey's comedians to weather the storms of a season that has not hitherto been remarkable for any great degree of financial success, will necessitate the closing of both houses of amusement. Lindsey's company are to have filled the week at the Theatre in the remains of old comedies. The attractions for next week will be Mabel Paige and "The Woman Who Had To."

The balance of the season will

introduce many famous stars and notable successes.

Hermann the Great is up in arms against managers that take off companies on the road without having any money to fall back on, and leave actors stranded. The famous conjurer who has himself often performed in the theatrical cities several occasions, and has put his hand deep into his pockets to help stranded organizations to get home, and suggests that a way be devised that will compel any manager taking a company on the road to deposit sufficient money to cover two weeks' salary for the company and railroad fare from a central point in the United States to New York city with a depository selected by the management, after which the managers will be compelled to avoid the scandal arising from the disgrace attendant upon the methods employed by unscrupulous backers and managers.

Apropos of his remarks in connection with the bill proposed by Hermann to discontinue irresponsible managers taking out companies which are bound to strand, Congressman Miner calls attention to the fact that the theatrical managers, whenever you choose to call it, is the one that has risen to the dignity of having a protective organization—the Actors' Fund being merely a charitable institution. Mr. Miner has given much time and money in his efforts to establish a managers' association, and Henry E. Abley, A. M. Palmer, and Dan Freedman have assisted him in his efforts. But managers do not seem desirous of combining.

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